

Newsletter July 2013

<https://sites.google.com/site/savitrinairobi/>

Dates to remember:-

1st July 2013 – Monday – Prosperity Day – Meditation at the Bhavan at 6.30 p.m.

13th July 2013 – Saturday – Tenth Anniversary of the enshrinement of Sri Aurobindo's Relics in Kenya. Readings from Savitri from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Every Saturday: 5.15p.m. to 6.30p.m.: Meditation, "SAVITRI" studies, readings from "COLLECTED WORKS OF THE MOTHER – De Luxe Volume 16.

Every Sunday: 11.00a.m. to 12.30p.m.: Readings from "The Synthesis of Yoga"

Shrine: Sri Aurobindo's Shrine at Sri Aurobindo Bhavan is open from 8a.m. to 7p.m. You are welcome. It is a place for silent meditation.

NEWS

On 3rd May 2013, Nairobi Centre of Sri Aurobindo Society presented three thousand booklets in ten titles to the Public Relations Officer of Youth Enterprise Fund Development. Its mother body is the Ministry of Youth Affairs which is specifically mandated to represent and address youth concerns in Kenya. The booklets will be of great help in character building of the youth. The booklets will be kept in the reception areas of the offices and also some of them will be sent to different constituencies all over Kenya.

On 28th May 2013, Nairobi Centre of Sri Aurobindo Society presented 1000 booklets in ten titles to the United Disabled Persons of Kenya which is the umbrella organisation of Person with Disabilities in Kenya. The booklets were received by the officials of the organisation and they will be distributed to the members of UDPK which currently has membership of about 200 disabled persons. The booklets will be also used by the counselors of their Support Group.

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Quotation from The Mother

Live only for the Divine.
Work only for the Divine.
Adore only the Divine.
The Mother

(All the articles in the newsletter are taken from Vol.12, 'On Education', of the Collected Works of The Mother. This volume is a compilation of the Mother's articles, messages, letters and conversations on education and self-development.)

Part Two. Messages, Letters and Conversations

1. **Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education.** This section consists mainly of the Mother's correspondence and conversations with the students and teachers of the Ashram's school, the Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education.

CONDUCT

WHAT A CHILD SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER

The necessity of an absolute sincerity

The certitude of Truth's final victory

The possibility of constant progress with the will to achieve.

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AN IDEAL CHILD

IS GOOD-TEMPERED

He does not become angry when things seem to go against him or decisions are not in his favour.

IS GAME

Whatever he does he does it to the best of his capacity and keeps on doing in the face of almost certain failure. He always thinks straight and acts straight.

IS TRUTHFUL

He never fears to say the truth whatever may be the consequences.

IS PATIENT

He does not get disheartened if he has to wait a long time to see the results of his efforts.

IS ENDURING

He faces the inevitable difficulties and sufferings without grumbling.

IS PERSEVERING

He never slackens his effort however long it has to last.

IS POISED

He keeps equanimity in success as well as in failure.

IS COURAGEOUS

He always goes on fighting for the final victory though he may meet with many defeats.

IS CHEERFUL

He knows how to smile and keep a happy heart in all circumstances.

IS MODEST

He does not become conceited over his success, neither does he feel himself superior to his comrades.

IS GENEROUS

He appreciates the merits of others and is always ready to help another to succeed.

IS FAIR AND OBEDIENT

He observes the discipline and is always honest.

Bulletin, August 1950

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The ideal child is intelligent. He understands everything he is told, he knows his lesson before he has learnt it and answers every question he is asked.

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He has faith in the future which is rich with all the realizations that are to come, full of beauty and light.

Childhood is the symbol of the future and the Hope of all the victories to come.

THE IDEAL CHILD

...likes to study when he is in school,

...he likes to play when he is in the playground,

...he likes to eat at meal-time,

...he likes to sleep at bed-time,

...and always he is full of love for all those
around him,

...full of confidence in the divine Grace

...full of deep respect for the Divine.

The things to be taught to a child

1. The necessity of absolute sincerity.
2. The certitude of the final victory of Truth.
3. The possibility and the will to progress.

Good temper, fair-play, truthfulness.

Patience, endurance, perseverance.

Equanimity, courage, cheerfulness.

What should be the main concern in education for children aged eleven to thirteen?

The most important thing to teach them is the absolute necessity of being sincere.

And untruth, however slight, should be refused.

They should also be taught to progress constantly, for as soon as one stops making any progress, one falls back and that is the beginning of decay.

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According to what I see and know, as a general rule, children over 14 should be allowed their independence and should be given advice only if and when they ask for it.

They should know that they are responsible for managing their own existence.

(An extract from the minutes of teacher's meeting:) The meeting felt concern over lack of discipline, good manners and right behaviour among some students.

I insist on the necessity of having good manners. I do not see anything grand in the manners of a gutter-snipe.

4 March 1960

True strength and protection come from the Divine Presence in the heart.

If you want to keep this Presence constantly in you, avoid carefully all vulgarity in speech, behaviour and acts.

Do not misuse liberty for license and freedom for bad manners: the thoughts must be pure and the aspiration ardent.

26 February 1965

Isn't this immense freedom we are given dangerous for those who are not yet awake, who are still unconscious? How can we account for this good fortune we have been given?

Danger and risk form part of all forward movement. Without them, nothing would ever move; besides, they are indispensable in forming the character of those who want to progress.

13 April 1966

Two things need to be done. Children must be taught:

- a. not to tell a lie, whatever the consequences;
- b. to control violence, rage, anger.

If these two things can be done, they can be led towards superhumanity.

There is an idea that if one breaks conventions, restrictions, one is free from the limitations of ordinary humanity. But this is wrong.

Those two things must be achieved to be able to be what may be called “superhuman”: not to tell lies and to control oneself.

A complete devotion to the Divine is the last condition, but these are the first two things to be achieved.

18 July 1971

Discipline is indispensable to be a man. Without discipline one is nothing but an animal. I give you two weeks to show that you really want to change and become disciplined. If you become disciplined and obedient I am willing to give you another chance. But do not try to be deceitful. At the least sign of insincerity, I shall have to send you away.

One begins to be a man only when one aspires to a higher and truer life and accepts a discipline of transformation.

For this one must begin by mastering one's own lower nature and one's desires.

8 March 1972